

The drawings were objected to as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. On the contrary, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed journal and thrust bearings clearly appear in the figures 1 and 2, and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of this issue is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected as unpatentable over Oku taken with Moritan. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner relies solely on the vague suggestion in Moritan at column 2 that the thrust plate should be bonded by adhesive or welding and equates this with welding the counterplate. This is a mischaracterization of the teaching of Moritan. Moritan clearly refers to bonding the thrust plate in place by adhesive or welding. He does not make any suggestion of welding the counterplate in place.

It is further submitted that the reference cited by the Examiner does not show a counterplate in the sense taught and claimed by the invention. The end of the shaft 12 in Moritan does not carry any bearing grooves; therefore the problems identified and solved in the present invention, are not present in Moritan which does not have any structure equivalent to the claimed invention. Contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, the thrust plate in the structure proposed by Moritan is fixed at the bottom of the housing by "caulking or press fit". (Col. 8, lines 15-18). Therefore, the supposed teaching relied on by the Examiner cannot in fact be found in the reference. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.


If any matters can be handled by telephone, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's attorney at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0782 (Order No. A-67845/JAS).

PATENT

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Respectfully submitted,

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